



Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
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“Long ago...” (Heb 1:1). How long ago is that?

The universe is approximately 14 billion years old. The Earth is over 4.5 billion years old. Life emerges about 4 billion years ago. Dinosaurs appear on Earth around 420 million years ago and they go extinct 65 million years ago.

The first known hominid goes back 4.4 million years. Humans start cooking their meals around 800,000 years ago. Modern humans evolved in Africa around 300,000 years ago and populated most of the Earth by the end of the Ice Age 12000 years ago.

During all that time, God spoke “in many and various ways.” Nature is one beautiful outcome of God’s speech. Bio-chemical-physical energy allowed beauty to take different and efficient forms and shapes capable to proliferation and development.¹

God spoke as human intelligence observed the natural world and fire was discovered (first cake made by ancient Egyptians, 6000 to 5000 BC ca.), and the wheel invented (Mesopotamia, ca. 3500 BC). Science was employed to forge tools for the sustenance of life and people moved from foraging and gathering to farming and shepherding.

¹ Gen 1:22

Abram and Sarai responded to the call of God and moved out of Ur of the Chaldeans (modern day Iraq) some 2000 years before the birth of Jesus. Moses came on the scene some 1500 years before Christ. The first prophet, Nathan, shows up at the time of David's reign around 1000 years B.C. with many more prophets to follow.

“...but in these last days God has spoke to us *by a Son...*”

The same Word God uttered to speak creation into being has now *appeared* among us. We can *hear* and *see* and *touch* the Word. That's the good news.

God wants to reveal something very intimate and salvific: The Son reflects God's glory and is the “exact imprint of God's very being.” In other words, God's very being shines through him; if you want to see God, simply look at him!

When we look at Jesus, we see what a human being without sin looks like. Not that Jesus did not make any mistakes. His human – cultural, physical - limitations were evident. What stood him apart is that Jesus was totally united in Spirit with God. And by taking on humanity and purifying it of sin (the foolish delusion that we are separated from God and on our own,) Jesus restored and united us in his Spirit to God. This is above angelic status (Heb 1:4).

Therefore, Hebrews, not after centuries of theologizing, but within a couple of decades of his execution, ascribes to Jesus the creation and shaping of the world. This is God. He is the imprint, the radiance of God's glory, bearing all things.

In the incarnation, Christ entered into the closest possible solidarity with humanity, sharing our experience, even to death.

Why? So that we who share his same origin in God might share his glory. What glory? Relationships of union! Creating community with God and neighbor that can grow infinitely.

Nature speaks tons about the beauty of God. **Scriptures** reveal much about God's intentions for us. In the Son, we see God's compassion and the meaning of suffering at the service of humanity. In the Spirit, God is ready to forgive and give gifts (Heb 2:4) to those who would otherwise "drift away." (Heb 2:1)

The author asks a very important question regarding God's amazing work with humanity: Who are we to deserve such great love? (Heb 2:5-8 quoting Psalm 8)

God is extremely excited about us! God loved us into creation and wants to live in eternity with us, together in community.

God did not make us like angels who already contemplate the glory of God and have no choice but worship God. God has made us "*for a little while* lower than the angels" (v. 7) and has given us the power to have *control* over all things created.²

During the "little while" we are on Earth, we are empowered to make **responsible choices** as we are entrusted the care or stewardship of God's creation. **God trusts us** even as we learn how to hold God's gift of multi-cultured nations, multi-colored nature, and the multi-species animals with care, and God is humble and patient enough to let us make our own mistakes.

What kind of choices are we making during this "little while"? **The risk of relapse is great.** It is easy to fall for the alluring promises of the world. But those are all lies. Let the glory of the

² Heb 2:8. See also Gen 1:28

Son be our guiding light. “You know the way,” Jesus told his disciples. (John 14:4)

God manifested love to all through the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, Jesus is the excellent hope, our covenant, and he summons believers to refuse the lures of worldly idols.

In God, through Jesus and in the Holy Spirit we are called, affirmed, equipped and sent. Each responding to our own vocation, engaging our own talents, and expressing our own passions serve God and collaborate in bringing about a reality where God reigns and God’s creatures are honored and blessed.

We are a “home” to one another, a home made of imperfect people who, in the name of Jesus and following his example, love one another, heading towards a common goal. It doesn’t matter how far we have wandered or how lost we may be. God is waiting for us with arms wide open, waiting to welcome us home.

The family of believers are home to one another or, as the apostle Paul once said, members of the same Body having Jesus as its head. In Christ and through his sacrificial love, you belong. No strings attached. No requirements but to open yourself to God’s grace.

In God’s home there are many rooms, workshops of grace, a marketplace of love and reconciliation with second and third and multiple chances where we learn how to love one another, how to appreciate each other’s dreams, and how to include everyone in God’s kingdom project.

There are many **day-to-day tasks** to be performed for a family to thrive. Not everybody does everything or the same task at once. There are many jobs that need to be performed at church as well. Every member has a chance to use her or his skills for personal contribution and satisfaction. Every one's creative expression is appreciated and needed not just for the functioning of the faith community but also for the spreading of the gospel.

So many around us and even in our midst are suffering right now. How do we respond to the call to help? What needs to be put in place so nobody gets forgotten but is supported in Christian charity? We need to create a supportive structure for home cooked meals and their delivery, for rides to church and to the doctor's office, for yard work and home repair, and for any emergency situations.

And the good news is, you are already doing that unofficially. We may want to give it a coordinated structure.

May the Living Word of God dwell in us richly and may it enrich our life together. Amen.